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Firstly, I would like to take this time to thank the CT. Dept. of Children and Family Services today, especially the Interstate Compact Office, Gerry Keanne and Bonnie Skeeahan. Also the many people who have helped me greatly throughout this process.

I will make this brief. This is about Isabella, my biological niece and every other child that has been hurt in the Foster Care system.

Since March of 2007, I have been desperately trying to get Isabella moved into my home. I did not know she was placed in Foster Care in the state of Michigan. Due diligence was not done by Michigan DHS to find me as her biological relative. In March, as soon as I found out, I called St. Joseph County Michigan to let them know that I would willingly take Isabella out of Foster Care immediately. I was met with great resistance and was told by a Foster Care Supervisor that I would never get her or an Interstate Compact Study. No basis for her denial.

Since DCF Michigan does not report to the Judicial Branch of government, I could not petition a Family Court judge on her behalf. My husband and I sought and retained legal counsel immediately.

We appealed to get an Interstate Compact study to their local case workers, Supervisors and were denied immediately. We finally appealed to the Superintendent, William Johnson and again with the help of CT. DCF the Interstate Study was completed Jan 2008, approved, and sent to Michigan.

Since Jan 2008, my family and I, with attorney fees being at over thirteen thousand dollars, have worked diligently with DCF CT. to sort out this absurd ordeal.

Prior to last week, we have been waiting for a home study comparison between the Foster Family and mine

I received a 32 page document in the mail after I initiated a FOIA request for that home. I brought this with me today. It turned out to be CPS documents for the past 3 year history in Isabella's Foster Home.

Here is now my comparison of what Isabella is suffering and how DCF CT. is stunned by this agonizing process.

Isabella suffered a spiral fracture of her femur at age 2, she is now 5 years old. Any emergency room MD or health care practitioner would always view this type of fracture as suspicious for physical abuse and the Michigan emergency room physician. did as well, however, no adults were "supposedly" supervising the children outside the home.

A Sex Offender Assessment was conducted with the Foster father. Young boys have brought forth allegations of sexual misconduct from the Foster father, and please, due to the nature of my next sentence, allow me to describe a very appalling incident. The foster father walked into his barn and found 2 minor boys engaging in sexual activity. The foster father did nothing. As stated in the report I received, the person conducting the Sex Offender Study stated she had great concern about the Foster father's judgement.

The Foster father and mother have been cited for corporal punishment and was substantiated for abuse. My attorney believe this abuse was toward Isabella. Michigan DCF's recommendation was that the father and mother attend parenting classes. A strange man was brought into their home and was allowed to babysit the children unsupervised. This person was never cleared through the screening process of Michigan DCF.

DCF CT. would never tolerate what has happened in Isabella's Foster Home and if it weren't for CT. DCF I would on somedays not have been able to balance what was considered right or wrong. DCF CT> would certainly if not immediately remove any child in that home abused by corporal punishment and remove any children that would be considered threatened along with licensing suspension and or revocation of license.

All of these CPS documents were sent to the Superintendent William Johnson prior to his decision making for my adoption consent of Isabella.

On Mon. of this week I received a letter of denial for consent Isabella, my niece. Again DCF. CT. is appalled. Now I must appeal this denial to a Family Court judge with another four thousand dollars in attorney fees to file this motion for appeal.

Lastly, since 2004 over 64 children have died in the Michigan Foster Care System. One child died while being chained to a bed after a fire broke out in his home.

My presence here today is to speak for all children who are secretly or openly being abused in foster Care and until I take my dying breath my life has now become about these children, our children.

Please pray for me and my family that the Family Court Judge will overturn the Superintendent, William Johnson's decision to deny Isabella the right to live with her family. And lastly, please understand that a lot of good is happening in the state Of CT. DCF compared to the number of deaths in Foster Care in Michigan that have been under the watch of Jennifer Grandholm, Governor and William Johnson, Superintendent of Michigan Children's Institute.

I sincerely thank you for your time, and again I thank CT. DCF for their outstanding efforts.

Mary Ann Cirone

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Ann Cirone".